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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: human resources development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 58 (see A/62/423, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 26th and 33rd meetings, on 13 November and 7 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.26 and 33).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.32 and A/C.2/62/L.51

2. At the 26th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/62/L.32), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling*, its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 54/211 of 22 December 1999, 56/189 of 21 December 2001, 58/207 of 23 December 2003, and 60/211 of 22 December 2005,

"*Recalling* also the World Summit on the Information Society,

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"*Stressing* that science and technology constitute a critical component of human resources development, which can enhance opportunities for social and economic development,

"*Noting* the immense technological gap between developed and developing countries and emphasizing the need to bridge it urgently,

"*Recognizing* that globalization, connectivity and interdependence have accelerated the pace of technological innovation, which requires countries to develop skills and knowledge needed to acquire, adapt and diffuse technological innovations,

"*Recognizing also* that developing countries have limited capacity to acquire, adapt and diffuse technological knowledge and innovation, and emphasizing the importance of assistance by the international community through financial and technical resources and in access to technology,

"*Stressing* the importance of facilitating cost-effective and equitable access to technological knowledge and learning,

"*Emphasizing* that education in science and technology is fundamental for technological knowledge and innovation, and recognizing the constraints faced by developing countries in this regard,

"*Stressing* the importance of effective use of science and technology in promoting human resources development in the context of national strategies focused on technological knowledge and learning, assisted by an enabling international environment,

"*Stressing also* that while Governments have the primary responsibility to define and implement such a strategy, there is need for the international community to provide full support to this effort,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Encourages* Governments to make technological knowledge and learning a priority of their human resources development strategies, and urges developed countries to provide access to advanced technologies at affordable rates;

"3. *Also encourages* Governments to build information and communications technology capacity to promote equitable access to and use of information and communications technology so as to improve professional competencies and technical skills and to create an enabling environment for lifelong learning, as laid out in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society, and reiterates the crucial role of the international community in fulfilling its commitments in this regard;

"4. *Stresses* the importance of investments in research and development in developing countries in order to develop a technological base and create knowledge and innovation relevant to local needs and in this regard calls for the provision of technical and financial assistance by the international community, including through collaborative research;

"5. *Strongly emphasizes* the need to establish strong links between relevant stakeholders in education and industry so as to ensure that educational curricula and programmes meet national science and technological needs, and calls for international support for higher education in developing countries;

"6. *Stresses* the importance of technical and vocational training in increasing technological learning and innovation and for promoting entrepreneurship for technological development;

"7. *Encourages* partnerships with subregional, regional and international networks and research facilities and other relevant institutions to optimize research efforts, facilitate cost-sharing and achieve mutual gains, and requests the United Nations system to assist in this regard;

"8. *Calls upon* the international community, including through the United Nations system, to support the efforts of developing countries in formulating human resources development strategies that promote technological capability;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of human resource development strategies, particularly on lessons learned and the role of the international community in assisting these efforts;

"10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session, under the item entitled 'Eradication of poverty and other development issues', the sub-item entitled 'Human resources development'."

3. At its 33rd meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/62/L.51), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.32.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the 33rd meeting, the representative of Latvia, in his capacity as facilitator, orally corrected the draft resolution (see A/C.2/62/SR.33).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.51, as orally corrected (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.51, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.32 was withdrawn by its sponsors (see A/C.2/62/SR.33).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Human resources development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 54/211 of 22 December 1999, 56/189 of 21 December 2001, 58/207 of 23 December 2003 and 60/211 of 22 December 2005,

Recalling also the World Summit on the Information Society,

Stressing that science and technology plays a critical role in facilitating human resources development, which can enhance opportunities for social and economic development,

Stressing that human resources development is key to the efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to expand opportunities for people, in particular for the most vulnerable groups of the population,

Acknowledging the urgent need to bridge the technological gap and to assist developing countries to access the potential benefits of science and technology for human resources development,

Recognizing that globalization, connectivity and interdependence have accelerated the pace of technological innovation, which enhances the benefits for countries that develop skills and knowledge needed to acquire, adapt and diffuse technological innovations,

Recognizing also that developing countries often have limited capacity to acquire, adapt and diffuse technological knowledge and innovation, and emphasizing the importance, where appropriate, of financial and technical assistance and resources from the international community and, as relevant, the fostering of international partnerships to enhance private sector technology transfers,

Stressing the importance of facilitating increased, cost-effective and equitable access to technological knowledge and learning, including through open trade and investment frameworks,

Emphasizing that education in science and technology is fundamental for technological knowledge and innovation, recognizing the benefits to all countries of making this an educational priority, and noting the constraints faced by some developing countries in this regard,

Recognizing the importance of science and technology in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Stressing the importance of the effective use of science and technology in promoting human resources development in the context of national strategies

focused on technological knowledge and learning, assisted by an enabling domestic and international environment,

Stressing also that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and the need for greater support from the international community for the national efforts of developing countries,

Stressing further that health and education are at the core of human resources development and the need to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and will have equal access to all levels of education,

Noting the impact of the movement of highly skilled people and those with an advanced education on human resources development and sustainable development in developing countries, and stressing the need for a global and comprehensive approach to maximize the positive impact of skilled labour mobility on human resources development,

Stressing that while the private sector plays an important role in the diffusion of applied science and technology, Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing a national strategy to promote technological knowledge and learning, with the support of the international community,

Emphasizing the continuing need for coordination and collaboration among the organizations of the United Nations system, within their mandates, in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in fostering their human resources development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Encourages* Member States to make technological knowledge and learning a priority of their human resources development strategies at all levels of education, formal and informal learning, emphasizes the importance of the capacity of educators in the technology learning process, and encourages the international community to continue to facilitate, in view of the difference in level of development between countries, an adequate diffusion of scientific and technical knowledge and transfer of, access to and acquisition of technology for developing countries, under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms, in a manner conducive to human resources development;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of human resources development in promoting sustainable development, and encourages Governments to integrate human resources development policies into their national development strategies;

4. *Calls for* steps to integrate gender perspectives into human resources development, including through policies, strategies and targeted actions aimed at promoting women's capacities and access to productive activities, and in this regard emphasizes the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of such policies, strategies and actions;

5. *Urges* the adoption of cross-sectoral approaches to human resources development, which combine, among other factors, economic growth, poverty

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eradication, the provision of basic social services, sustainable livelihoods, the empowerment of women, the involvement of young people, the needs of vulnerable groups of society and of local indigenous communities, political freedom, popular participation and respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity in order to meet the challenge of development;

6. *Calls upon* the international community, including the entities of the United Nations system, to support the efforts of developing countries to address the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases on their human resources;

7. *Encourages* Member States to build information and communications technology capacity to promote equitable access to and use of information and communications technology in order to improve professional competencies and technical skills and to create an enabling environment for lifelong learning, and reiterates the crucial role of the international community in fulfilling its commitments in this regard;

8. *Also encourages* Member States to expand technical, vocational, craft and utilitarian science education to all sectors of society, especially to women and disadvantaged groups, and to promote their empowerment through the use of information and communications technology to facilitate more equitable access to training and education on science and technology;

9. *Stresses* that investment of human resources development should be an integral part of national development policies and strategies, and in this regard calls for the adoption of policies to facilitate investment focused on infrastructure and capacity development, including, inter alia, education, health and science and technology, including information and communications technology;

10. *Also stresses* the importance of investments in research and development in all countries, particularly in developing countries, to develop a technological base and create knowledge and innovation relevant to local needs, encourages Governments in this regard, where appropriate, to adopt trade, investment and regulatory regimes that promote private-public investment in research and development, and invites the provision of technical and financial assistance by the international community, including through collaborative research;

11. *Further stresses* the need to establish strong links between relevant stakeholders in education and industry so as to ensure that educational curricula and programmes meet national science and technological needs, and strongly encourages international support for science and technological education, including higher education in developing countries;

12. *Stresses* the importance of technical and vocational training in increasing technological learning and innovation and for promoting entrepreneurship for technological development;

13. *Encourages* partnerships with subregional, regional and international networks and research facilities and other relevant institutions, public and private, to optimize research efforts, facilitate cost-sharing and achieve mutual gains, and requests the United Nations system to assist in this regard;

14. *Calls upon* the relevant entities of the United Nations system to give priority to the objectives of human resources development through, inter alia, integrating in their development programmes explicit support for building science and technology capacities compatible with local needs, resources, culture and practices;

15. *Urges* the international community and the United Nations system, including through public-private partnerships, to continue to support the efforts of developing countries in formulating human resources development strategies that promote technological capability;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of human resources development strategies, in particular on lessons learned and the role of the international community and other entities, including the private sector, in assisting these efforts;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".